Providing free cost of electricity to sections of the community

1610. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States where the electricity continues to be provided free of cost to sections of the community;

(b) what is the total drain out of expenditure on this head, giving details State-wise;

(c) whether Government have given advice to these States for refraining from such a course; and

(d) the reasons that this benefit is not given to all consumers alike instead of choosing groups or sections of community which are considered vote banks by the political party in power in a State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) At present three States *viz*. Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are giving free supply of power without any ceiling on consumption to certain categories of consumers like agriculture.

In some other States, free supply of electricity is available to certain category of consumers only upto a very limited level of consumption or connected load.

A statement indicating the States and expenditure involved on free supply of electricity as per available information is at Statement (*See* Below)

(c) and (d) Under section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the State Government may grant subsidy from its budget to any class of consumers if it so desires in the tariff determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

The National Electricity Policy lays emphasis on ensuring recovery of cost of service from the consumers to make the power sector sustainable. The policy also provides that a minimum level of support may be required to consumers living below poverty line and consuming only up a specified level say 30 units/month. Tariff for such consumers should also be at least 50% of the cost of the average cost of supply.

Statement

Statement indicating the names of the States providing free/subsidized supply of electricity

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Category of supply	Estimated expenditure
1.	Karnataka	Economically weaker section Bhagya Jyoti/Kuteer Jyoti connections (where consumption is upto 18 unit per month)	Rs. 112.18 crores p.a.
2.	Kerala	Connected load 500 W with monthly consumption up to 20 unit.	Rs. 102.35 crores
3.	Punjab	Agriculture consumer + SC consumer	Rs. 1548 crores
4.	Tamil Nadu	Agriculture and hut categories and partial domestic	Rs. 1166 crores
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Agricultural (for SC/ST) consumers upto 5 H.P.	Rs. 208.04 crores
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Agriculture	Rs. 877.58 croreS

Contentious issues between Orissa and NTPC

1611. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has moved the Centre against the policy of the State Government of Orissa seeking a contribution of Rs. 4 crore for 100 MW generation per annum by PSU and independent power producers; and

(b) what are the contentious issues between the two and how far have these been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) the draft State Thermal Policy proposed to be notified by the Orissa Government contained the following provision:—

> "Contribution by IPP @ Rs. 4.00 crores per 100 MW per annum towards an Environment Management Fund."